



Howard County

Internal Memorandum

Subject: Testimony on CB No 39-2009
Electronic Community meeting notices

To: Lonnie Robbins, Chief Administrative Officer

From: Marsha S. McLaughlin, Director
Department of Planning and Zoning

Date: July 8, 2009

The Department of Planning and Zoning supports adoption of CB No.39-2009 which amends the requirements for pre-submission community meetings to modify notice requirements, prohibits these meetings from being scheduled on certain holidays and makes certain technical corrections.

This legislation also incorporates a new process to expand public notice about pre-submission meetings. We are currently using cutting edge technology coupling GIS mapping capabilities with the dynamic DPZ database to provide up-to-the-minute information regarding the status of development plans and public meetings. We are adding an electronic sign-up process to allow community organizations and homeowner associations to subscribe, utilizing very specific parameters determined by that user, to electronic notification of meetings by a developer.

As an example, the village manager of the Village of Hickory Ridge could register to receive via email, developer meeting information for projects within a 1 mile radius of the Village Center. Additionally, as publisher of the village newsletter, that village manager may also want to be notified of all pre-submission community meetings west of Route 29.

The fiscal impact of this legislation is anticipated to be neutral. The communication impact however, will be significant providing an additional tool that assists the development community in meeting their public notice obligations, while simultaneously expanding citizen awareness and participation.

cc: Jessica Feldmark, Chief of Staff, County Executive's Office
Jennifer Sager, Legislative Coordinator, Administration
Kimberley Flowers, Deputy Director, Department of Planning & Zoning